

REMARKS

Further consideration of the application (after final rejection) is respectfully requested. No additional searching is believed to be necessary. Further, this amendment is believed to place the rejected claims 27-30 in condition for allowance.

In the action of December 24, 2003, claims 1-26, 31 and 32 were allowed; claims 27, 28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Jeffries; claim 29 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter. While applicant does not necessarily agree with the examiner's statement relative to the obviousness of reversing the hub portion and the frame portion of Jeffries to arrive at applicants' invention, applicant has amended his claims to clearly distinguish from Jeffries regardless of whether or not it is obvious to so reverse the parts. Claim 27 has been amended to clarify the offset physical relationship of the projecting element relative to the axle of the hub assembly. In particular, the positioning member is defined to have a centerline which is offset from the centerline of the axle by a distance which is greater than the radius of the axle and such that the exterior surface of the positioning member is clear of the exterior surface of the axle. This is quite different from the Jeffries structure, in which receiving member 134 and the corresponding cooperating portion 146 of the hub have the same centerline as the axle 38. There is no offset of those two members.

As indicated previously, applicants' offset arrangement has significant benefits in that it substantially prevents backlash rotation of the wheel relative to the chassis and further is quite convenient to use for standard wheelchair wheel arrangements. Jeffries' structure is only usable with a custom structure. Accordingly, claim 27 is allowable over the Jeffries reference.


In view of the above, claims 27-30 are in condition for allowance in addition to the previously allowed claims 1-26, 31 and 32.

This is to request a one-month extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the extension fee of \$55 (small entity) or any deficiencies or credits to Deposit Account 07-1900.

Respectfully submitted,

JENSEN & PUNTIGAM, P.S.

By

  
Clark A. Puntigam, #25,763  
Attorney for Applicant

CAP:gh

206 448-3200